



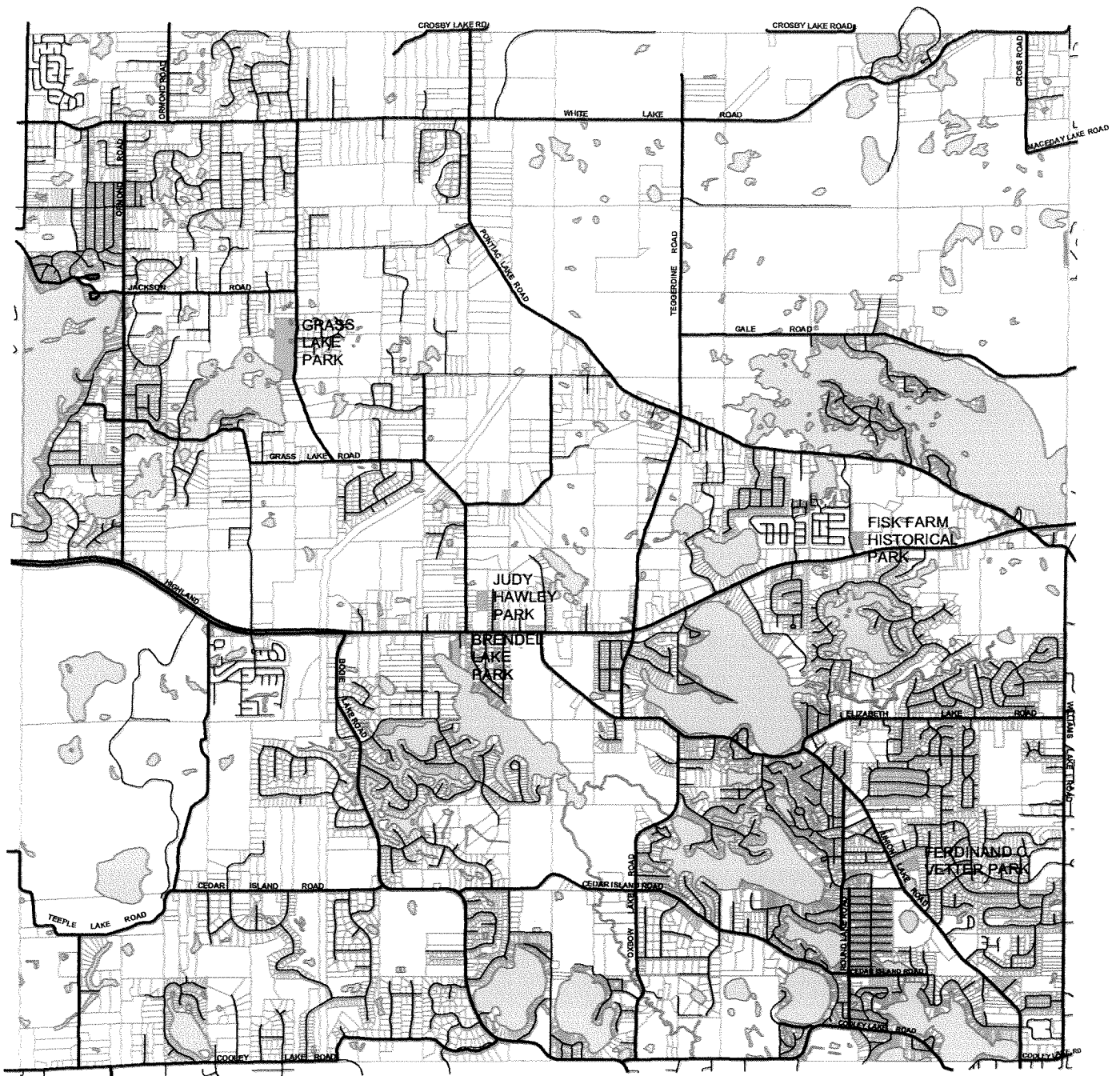
# **2005-2009 RECREATION PLAN**



## **WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP “The Four Seasons Playground”**

***EXECUTIVE STUDY***  
pertaining to  
**BLOOMER GRASS LAKE PARK**

*Prepared by*  
**White Lake Township  
Parks and Recreation Committee**

*Assisted by*  
**Birchler Arroyo Associates, Inc.**  
Planning Communities & Transportation Systems  
[www.birchlerarroyo.com](http://www.birchlerarroyo.com)



-  EXISTING TOWNSHIP PARKS
-  FUTURE TOWNSHIP PARKS

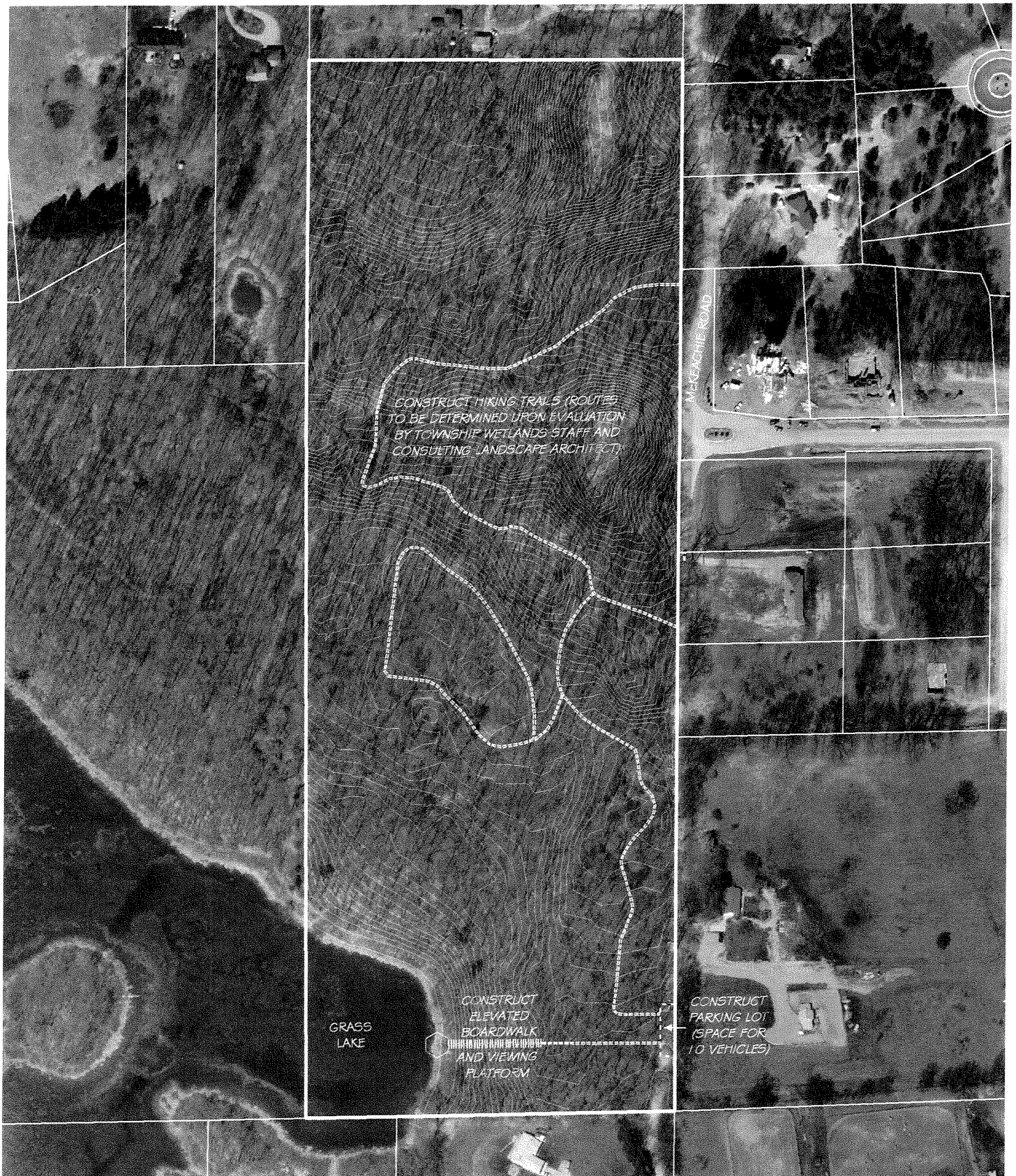
# PARKS MASTER PLAN WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP OAKLAND COUNTY, MI

MAP RP-19



BIRCHLER ASSOCIATES, INC.

BASE MAP SOURCE: OAKLAND COUNTY



CONCEPTUAL DEVELOPMENT  
SCHEME FOR  
**BLOOMER GRASS LAKE PARK**  
WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP  
OAKLAND COUNTY, MI

SOURCE: OAKLAND COUNTY

N  
1" = 225'

**BA**  
BIRCHLER ARROYO  
ASSOCIATES, INC.

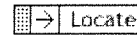
# Access Oakland Property Viewer



Disclaimer: The information provided in this system has been compiled from recorded deeds, plats, tax maps, surveys and other public records and data. It is not a legally recorded map survey and is not intended to be used as one. Users of this data are hereby notified that the information sources mentioned above should be consulted for verification of the information.

Next Parcel ID 

Locate this parcel

[Return to Search Menu](#)

## Residential Property Profile

Note: If you use the 'Reload' function of your browser, you will be billed again. You will not be billed for using the 'Back' and 'Forward' buttons. Last updated on 10/30/2005 for TOWNSHIP OF WHITE LAKE.

### No property address available

[View Photos](#) [View Map](#)**Parcel ID**

12-08-300-007

**Municipality**

TOWNSHIP OF WHITE LAKE

**Owner(s)**

BLOOMER STATE PARK NO 4

**Property Description**

T3N, R8E, SEC 8 S 28 ACRES OF E 1/2 OF E 1/2 OF SW 1/4 28 A Y109

**Use**

RESORT VACANT

**School District**

HURON VALLEY

**Neighborhood Code**

08B

**Current Assessed Value**

\$0

**Capped Value**

\$0

**State Equalized Value**

\$0

### No sales since 1994

**Taxable Value**

\$0

**Effective Date for Taxes**

7/1/2005

**Homestead %**

0

**2004 Taxes****2005 Taxes**

Summer	Winter	Village

Summer	Winter	Village

**Lot Information****Description**

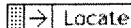
LEVEL

**Width****Depth**

28

Next Parcel ID 

Locate this parcel

[Return to Search Menu](#)



May 19, 2005

Grants, Contracts, and Customer Systems  
Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
PO Box 30425  
Lansing, MI 48909-7925

**SUBJECT: White Lake Township Recreation Plan 2005-2009**

Ladies & Gentleman:

On behalf of the White Lake Township Parks and Recreation Committee and the Township Board, I am pleased to transmit the enclosed copy of the Township's Recreation Plan.

The plan was prepared consistent with Michigan Department of Natural Resources guidelines. The Township intends to use the Plan as the basis for requesting grant funding from the MDNR and other funding sources as applicable. The Parks and Recreation Committee adopted the Recreation Plan on February 16, 2005. On March 15, 2005, the White Lake Township Board adopted the Plan following a Public Hearing.

Very truly yours,  
BIRCHLER ARROYO ASSOCIATES, INC.

Karen M. Fashoway, AICP, PCP  
Senior Planner

# CHAPTER 1 - INTRODUCTION & DESCRIPTION OF RECREATION PLANNING PROCESS

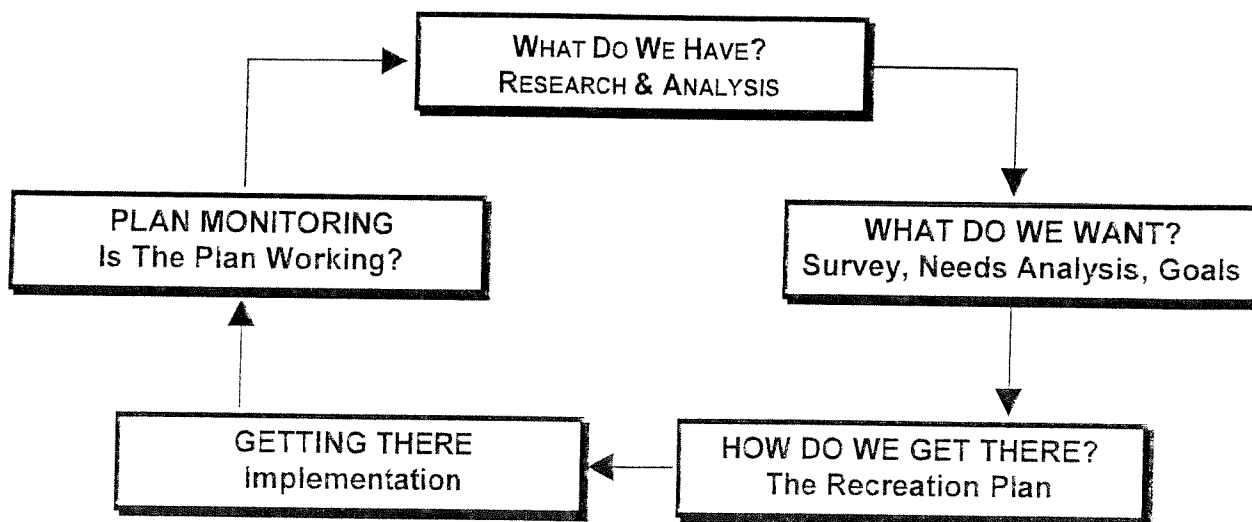
## INTRODUCTION

This Recreation Plan has been prepared by the White Lake Township Parks and Recreation Committee and adopted by the White Lake Township Board of Trustees. The Plan is intended to guide future Township parks and recreation programs, services, operations and maintenance for the five year term of the Plan. In addition, the Plan is intended to form the basis for future application for recreation grant funding from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and other granting agencies and foundations.

## DESCRIPTION OF RECREATION PLANNING PROCESS

The recreation planning process in White Lake Township is intended to involve residents from a broad cross-section of the Township's population. Responsibility for recreation planning rests with the Parks and Recreation Committee, Planning Commission (through the Master Plan) and Township Board. The Township Board, as the legislative body, maintains ultimate authority for recreation planning and budgeting in the Township. The Township receives assistance in recreation and general planning matters from a planning consultant.

The recreation planning process followed this 5-step general framework:



## WHAT DO WE HAVE?

With the assistance of the Township's planning consultant, the Township Parks and Recreation Committee analyzed the basic demographic characteristics and natural features of the Township. They then reviewed an inventory of existing recreational programs and facilities within the Township and region. Finally, this information was used to form a comparison of existing recreational facilities with projected needs based on recreation standards.

## WHAT DO WE WANT?

The above information was then used to provide the basis for an understanding of the types of recreational facilities currently serving the Township's residents and what future needs will be based on population projections. In order to gather public input, the Township's Planning Consultant conducted an observation of park usage at Ferdinand C. Vetter Park and Dublin Community Senior Center, Judy Hawley Park, and Hess-Hathaway Park to get user comments regarding the recreational facilities. Also, an Issues and Solutions Workshop was conducted for Township residents to solicit feedback on desired recreational facilities (results are detailed in the Appendix). This information, along with the comments of the Township Parks and Recreation Committee and Township Board, were then synthesized into a series of goals and objectives for the Recreation Plan.

## HOW DO WE GET THERE?

The Goals and Objectives formed the basis for the five-year Recreation Plan that is outlined below. There is a direct link between the community survey, needs assessment, Parks and Recreation Committee, Township Board, public comments, and the Recreation Plan. The consultant prepared a suggested five-year Recreation Plan framework for consideration by the Township based upon the goals and objectives. The Parks and Recreation Committee then finalized a draft Recreation Plan for consideration and adoption by the Township Board after proper notice and public hearing. (See Appendix for public hearing notices and minutes of meetings).

## GETTING THERE

This phase will involve the implementation of the Recreation Plan. Included will be consideration of funding alternatives such as Township general fund monies, application for State recreation grants as well as other grant opportunities where appropriate.

## PLAN MONITORING

This phase will occur periodically, at least every five years. It is intended to review the goals and objectives of the Recreation Plan as well as to determine the Township's progress in achieving the five-year action plan.

## RECREATION DEFICIENCIES & STRATEGIES

The following discusses the deficiencies in recreational land that White Lake Township is projected to have in the years 2010 and 2020. The projected need is based upon population estimates generated for 2010 and 2020 as part of the White Lake Master Plan process. As discussed below, both Township-operated facilities and other public recreation facilities were considered when developing this analysis.

### **Mini-Park**

**2010 Projected Need: 12 acres      2020 Projected Need: 15 acres**

There are not any Township-operated recreational facilities that are classified as mini-parks. However, school sites could be used to help satisfy the need for local playgrounds for neighborhood children. Given that all the school sites are south of M-59, with the exception of Brooks Elementary, it is especially critical for the Township to consider possible sites for mini-parks north of M-59. Whenever feasible, parcels for mini-parks should be secured in growing areas of the Township, particularly areas in the southeastern portion of the Township that may not be properly served by the existing school and park facilities. Small park sites could be secured as elements of new residential developments. The preservation of private open space within a new residential community can assist in providing neighborhood-level recreation facilities for the residents. As the Township continues to develop and the population grows, it will be critical to set aside areas that could be developed and easily accessed by children in nearby developments.

### **Neighborhood Park/ Playground**

**2010 Projected Need: 32 acres      2020 Projected Need: 42 acres**

Vetter Park and Hawley Park are both classified as neighborhood park/ playground facilities. These parks typically serve as the fundamental park unit in a community, because they are smaller and easier to develop than a community-wide park, while having the facilities to meet a variety of recreation needs in the community. To meet the projected need in 2010 of 32 additional neighborhood park acres, the Township should pursue developing 2 or 3 additional parks that will incorporate a combination of active and passive uses (playfields, playground equipment, walking trails, picnic areas) for a variety of ages and physical abilities. Possible locations of these parks are the western portion of the Township, both north and south of M-59.

### **Community-Wide Park**

**2010 Projected Need: 55 acres      2020 Projected Need: 95 acres**

White Lake Township does not operate any community-wide parks, however the Hess-Hathaway Park on Williams Lake Road in Waterford is a community-wide park that serves the White Lake population. While Indian Springs Metropark and the Highland and Pontiac Lake State Recreation Areas have facilities that serve a community-park need, the Township should pursue developing additional park facilities of its own that will serve a larger population than Vetter and Hawley parks, but at a much smaller scale than the Metroparks or State Recreation Areas that serve a regional population. The location of these facilities should be central, and

therefore accessible to the entire White Lake community. Development of one large community-wide park within the five-year time frame of this plan (2005-2009) would serve the needs of the community.

### **Connector Trail**

The implementation of the pathways component of this Recreation Plan will assist in meeting the needs of White Lake residents for a non-motorized method of travel. The pathways will provide a vital link between various recreation facilities and residential neighborhoods, which are currently not accessible except by car. This will provide greater access to recreational facilities by children, the elderly, and those who may be unable to drive.

### **Special Use Park**

Recreational facilities in White Lake that are classified in this category include the Dublin Community Senior Center, Old Township Hall (0.5 acres), Alpine Valley Ski Area (112 acres), and various horsebackriding facilities (50 acres+) and White Lake Oaks County Golf Course. There is also a potential for additional park or recreation facilities on a former tree farm site on Hitchcock Road. While there is no particular standard for the acreage or number of special use parks that should be provided in a community, developing these facilities can provide a unique resource for residents and visitors alike. Given the vast natural resources within the Township, and the high rate of growth in the community, it is critical to preserve these areas for the benefit of current and future residents whenever feasible.

### **Natural Resource Areas**

While White Lake Township does not control vast natural resource areas, the Township has over 5,700 acres of protected land maintained by the State of Michigan (Highland and Pontiac Lake State Recreation Areas, Bloomer #4 State Park) and the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (Indian Springs Metropark). Future preservation of natural resource areas will most likely occur as open space within developments, or perhaps land easements maintained by a nature conservancy. The Huron River corridor provides a prime resource for potential future preservation and public access.

Source: Recreation, Park & Open Space Standards & Guidelines National Recreation and Park Association; Roger A. Lancaster, Ed: 1983.  
Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Guidelines, National Recreation and Park Association and the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration; James D. Mertes, Ph.D., CLP and James R. Hall, CLP, Co-Task Force Chairs, 1996.

## CHAPTER 11 – GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goals and Objectives formulated by the Township are the basis of the recreation planning process. They form the framework for public and private decision-making regarding recreational facilities and programs in the Township. This Recreation Plan seeks to pursue long-range recreational goals and objectives through specific short-range actions on the part of the Township, County, and State as well as private entities.

Following the public input process and development of the vision statement, the Goals and Objectives were written and adopted by the Parks and Recreation Committee. The Goals state the general concepts regarding what the Township intends to accomplish, while the Objectives offer the more specific recommendations for achieving the Goals. The Goals and Objectives were developed utilizing the public comments collected during the park observation and inventory, the public input received during the Issues and Solutions Workshop, the Community Description in Chapter 1, and projected needs and challenges within the parks and recreation system.

### GOAL 1. Pursue the acquisition, expansion or development of additional local recreation facilities

#### Objectives

- ❖ Evaluate traditional and creative means of acquiring additional parkland for local recreation
- ❖ Negotiate with developers to provide additional parkland within specific neighborhoods
- ❖ Install a swingset at Vetter Park
- ❖ Determine appropriate locations throughout the Township for mini-parks
- ❖ Determine appropriate locations in the western portion of the Township for additional neighborhood parks
- ❖ Determine an appropriate location for a community-wide park
- ❖ Develop a system of pathways throughout the Township for non-motorized transportation
- ❖ Provide additional space for indoor meeting facilities
- ❖ Consider the development of new recreational concepts in the Township, including canoe trails and community gardens

➡ **GOAL 2.** Pursue the use/development of surplus or underutilized state-owned property in White Lake Township.

Objectives

- ❖ Maximize the monies available for development of new recreation facilities by limiting the dollars that must be allocated for land acquisition.
- ❖ Continue to pursue acquisition of MDNR's Bloomer State Park No. 4 on McKeachie Road to permit Township preservation of this natural area
- ❖ Consider methods to secure the ownership and/or preservation of any State land that may be sold in the future
- ❖ Collaborate with the MDNR to determine how historic barn within Highland State Recreation Area may be utilized for recreational purposes

➡ **GOAL 3.** Promote the establishment of cooperative public/private partnerships with adjacent communities or non-profit organizations to develop or provide recreational facilities and programs.

Objectives

- ❖ Support and encourage cooperative efforts with existing organizations such as Hi-White Baseball, Huron Valley Soccer Club, Lakes Area Youth Soccer League, and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources
- ❖ Consider development of a cooperative recreational services system, with school districts and adjacent communities, to provide recreational programs at shared facilities
- ❖ Support private non-profit organizations which provide recreational facilities or programs through financial, in-kind, or facility access agreements
- ❖ Meet periodically with the Parks & Recreation committees of the four neighboring townships to discuss possible joint ventures and coordinate provision of facilities and programs

➤ **GOAL 4.** Develop a paved multi-use pathway system to link Township recreation areas with population concentrations and adjacent community pathways.

Objectives

- ❖ Determine the feasibility and locational criteria for development of multi-use pathways and sidewalks in specific areas of the Township
- ❖ Provide pedestrian connections between residential neighborhoods
- ❖ Develop standards for a Township pathway system to be added to the required improvements for development of properties, as found in the Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Regulation Ordinance
- ❖ Ensure that safety is built into the system by providing proper pavement marking and signage

**GOAL 5.** Prepare a development concept for the 6½ acre Township parcel with frontage on Brendel Lake.

Objectives

- ❖ Ensure proper access and signage is provided to the site.
- ❖ Provide passive recreation facilities such as a fishing pier, nature walk, and wildlife viewing areas

**GOAL 6.** Develop a program to inform residents and visitors of parks and recreation facilities.


Objectives

- ❖ Design a uniform sign system that is informative and easily recognizable to the public
- ❖ Install signage along major roadways to identify the location of parks facilities, particularly for Judy Hawley Park that does not have road frontage
- ❖ Develop a marketing program to inform residents, especially those new to White Lake, about the parks and recreation opportunities available

## CHAPTER 12 - ACTION PLAN

The focus of White Lake's Recreation Plan is to begin development of a pathways system and expand recreational offerings through land acquisition and development. The Action Program describes, in detail, the proposed strategy for the next 5 years, 2005 through 2009. The Action Program items were developed following public input provided during the Issues and Solutions workshop and at the Township parks, in addition to consultation with the Parks and Recreation Committee. Each proposed "action" is followed by the reason why it is important.

### 2005 ACTION PROGRAM

-  1. BLOOMER GRASS LAKE PARK      Acquire from the MDNR and develop Stewardship Plan

Estimated Cost:      \$5,000 Local

TOTAL: \$5,000

Basis for Action: The MDNR is in the process of releasing surplus land. Township acquisition of this property will ensure its preservation, while improving public access as a result of development in 2006. The Township plans to hire a consulting naturalist to assist in developing a Stewardship Plan to protect the property's unique natural resources and natural features.

2. PARK PROGRAMMING

Develop a summer program (monthly event) at Vetter and/or Hawley park in order to promote the Township's new park system and develop local support for expansion.

Estimated Cost:      \$2,250 Local

TOTAL: \$2,250

Basis for Action: Enhance the recreation offerings in the Township by providing an event, such as a musical performance, that will appeal to a cross-section of White Lake residents and encourage additional park usage. The cost of the event could be supplemented by recruiting business sponsors and through refreshment sales.

3. LAND ACQUISITION FOR  
HAWLEY PARK EXPANSION

Expand existing Hawley Park (see Map RP-18)

Estimated Cost:      \$50,000 Local

\$100,000 MNRTF

TOTAL: \$150,000

Basis for Action: Expansion of recreational land is critical in order to meet the needs of both existing and future residents, especially as vacant land becomes more scarce and the Township's population continues to grow.

#### 4. FERDINAND C. VETTER PARK

Irrigate two ballfields and remediate pathway slope to meet barrier-free standards

Estimated Cost:	\$60,000	Ballfields
	<u>\$ 5,000</u>	<u>Pathway</u>
	\$65,000	TOTAL
	\$35,000	Local
	\$30,000	MDNR

Basis for Action: The baseball fields should be irrigated to maintain them in a functional and safe condition during times of heavy use. The Township may request a grant to assist in the installation of the irrigation system, while the Township funds the pathway remediation.

#### 5. MILLAGE RESEARCH

Basis for Action: Investigate the best method for proposing a Parks & Recreation Millage, the amount required to raise sufficient funds for development and programming, the timing of the next election, and the elements of a successful promotional campaign.

**2005 TOTAL = \$222,250 TOTAL**

\$92,250 (Local) and \$130,000 (MNRTF)

#### **2006 ACTION PROGRAM**

##### 1. BLOOMER GRASS LAKE PARK -

Install parking lot and pathway

Estimated Cost:	\$ 50,000	Parking Lot
	<u>\$ 59,000</u>	<u>Pathway</u>
	\$109,000	TOTAL (Local)

Basis for Action: Acquisition of Bloomer #4 State Park from the MDNR will allow White Lake to provide a new, barrier-free passive-recreation use park to the public.

##### 2. LAND ACQUISITION -

Expand existing park or purchase land for development of a new park, with first priority being parcels adjacent to existing parks or Township-owned land (see Map RP-18)

Estimated Cost:	\$50,000 Local	\$100,000 MNRTF	TOTAL: \$150,000
-----------------	----------------	-----------------	------------------

Basis for Action: Expansion of recreational land is critical in order to meet the needs of both existing and future residents, especially as vacant land becomes more scarce and the Township's population increases.

### 3. LAND ACQUISITION -

Acquire parcel(s) in northwest portion of the Township for future neighborhood park

Estimated Cost:     \$50,000 Local     \$100,000 MNRTF     TOTAL: \$150,000

Basis for Action: Expansion of recreational land is critical in order to meet the needs of both existing and future residents, especially as vacant land becomes more scarce and the Township's population continues to grow. In particular, the northwest quadrant of the Township is deficient in neighborhood parkland.

### 4. BLOOMER GRASS LAKE PARK -

Install boardwalk and viewing platform

\$118,000

Boardwalk

\$ 31,250

Viewing Platform

\$149,250

TOTAL (Local)

Basis for Action: Enhance passive recreation opportunities in the Township by providing barrier-free access to view Grass Lake.

### 5. PARK PROGRAMMING

Develop a summer program (monthly event) at Vetter and/or Hawley park in order to promote the Township's new park system and develop local support for expansion.

Estimated Cost:     \$2,250 Local     TOTAL: \$2,250

Basis for Action: Enhance the recreation offerings in the Township by providing an event, such as a musical performance, that will appeal to a cross-section of White Lake residents and encourage additional park usage. The cost of the event could be supplemented by recruiting business sponsors and through refreshment sales.

### 2008 TOTAL = \$625,050 TOTAL

\$282,050 (Local)     \$343,000 (Combination of Greenways Initiative, MNRTF, Tea-21 Enhancement, MDOT, MDNR Trust Fund, and USDOT Appropriations Act)

## 2009 ACTION PROGRAM

### 1. M-59 PATHWAY -

Estimated Cost: \$71,000 Local

Complete M-59 pathway by filling in gaps along corridor

\$639,000

TOTAL: \$710,000

Greenways

Initiative, MNRTF,

Tea -21, MDOT,

MDNR Trust

Fund, USDOT

Appropriations Act

Basis for Action: A pathway along M-59 will provide non-motorized pedestrian access to the major of the Township's commercial development. The existing pathway, mostly located directly adjacent to the roadway, is not a safe or practical option for pedestrians.

### 2. LAND ACQUISITION -

Expand existing park or purchase land for development of a new park, with first priority being parcels adjacent to existing parks or Township-owned land (see Map RP-18)

Estimated Cost: \$50,000 Local

\$100,000 MNRTF

TOTAL: \$150,000

Basis for Action: Expansion of recreational land is critical in order to meet the needs of both existing and future residents, especially as vacant land becomes more scarce and the Township's population continues to grow.

### 3. PARK PROGRAMMING

Develop a summer program (monthly event) at Vetter and/or Hawley park in order to promote the Township's new park system and develop local support for expansion.

Estimated Cost: \$2,250 Local

TOTAL: \$2,250

Basis for Action: Enhance the recreation offerings in the Township by providing an event, such as a musical performance, that will appeal to a cross-section of White Lake residents and encourage additional park usage. The cost of the event could be supplemented by recruiting business sponsors and through refreshment sales.

**2009 TOTAL = \$862,250 TOTAL**

\$123,250 (Local); \$739,000 Greenways Initiative, MNRTF, Tea-21, MDOT, MDNR Trust Fund, USDOT Appropriations Act

## Action Plan Summary

YEAR	PROPOSED ACTION	TOWNSHIP SHARE	GRANT AMOUNT	TOTAL COST
2005	Bloomer Grass Lake Park – Acquire & develop Stewardship Plan	\$5,000		\$5,000
	Parks Programming	\$2,250		\$2,250
	Land Acquisition for Hawley Park Expansion	\$50,000	\$100,000	\$150,000
	Ferdinand C. Vetter Park – Irrigate ballfields & remediate pathway slope	\$35,000	\$30,000	\$65,000
	Millage research	N/A	N/A	N/A
	<b>2005 TOTAL</b>	<b>\$92,250</b>	<b>\$130,000</b>	<b>\$222,250</b>
2006	Bloomer Grass Lake Park – Install parking lot and pathway	\$109,000		\$109,000
	Land acquisition	\$50,000	\$100,000	\$150,000
	Parks Programming	\$2,250		\$2,250
	<b>2006 TOTAL</b>	<b>\$161,250</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$261,250</b>
2007	Headwaters Pathway – Connect Highland and Pontiac Lake State Recreation Areas, and Indian Springs Metropark	\$45,000	\$405,000	\$450,000
	Land acquisition	\$50,000	\$100,000	\$150,000
	Parks Programming	\$2,250		\$2,250
	<b>2007 TOTAL</b>	<b>\$97,250</b>	<b>\$505,000</b>	<b>\$602,250</b>

2008	Union Lake Pathway – Union Lake Road Corridor	\$27,000	\$243,000	\$270,000
	Brendel Lake Park – Install pathway and pavilion with picnic tables	\$53,550		\$53,550
	Land acquisition	\$50,000	\$100,000	\$150,000
	Bloomer Grass Lake Park – Install boardwalk and viewing platform	\$149,250		\$149,250
	Parks Programming	\$2,250		\$2,250
	<b>2008 TOTAL</b>	<b>\$282,050</b>	<b>\$343,000</b>	<b>\$625,050</b>
2009	M-59 Pathway	\$71,000	\$639,000	\$710,000
	Land acquisition	\$50,000	\$100,000	\$150,000
	Parks Programming	\$2,250		\$2,250
	<b>2009 TOTAL</b>	<b>\$123,250</b>	<b>\$739,000</b>	<b>\$862,250</b>

# White Lake Charter Township Recreation Plan Future Vision Participants

The White Lake Charter Township Recreation Committee would like to invite you and/or another member of your organization to participate in a workshop designed to develop a Future Vision for recreation facilities and programs in White Lake Charter Township. The Recreation Committee has been working on developing a new Recreation Plan that will outline the proposed parks and recreation developments for the next 5 years. Background reports about the Township's existing land use and development patterns, population and housing characteristics, natural features, public and private parks and recreation resources have been completed. The next step is formulating the community's goals, objectives, and policies. The Future Vision exercise has been designed to encourage public participation in identifying important issues associated with the Township's parks and recreation resources. The resulting Vision Statement will serve as a continuing guide for the Recreation Committee as they complete the Recreation Plan. The Community Vision meeting will be held on:

**Wednesday, September 15, 2004**

**6:45–9:00 p.m.**

**Dublin Community Senior Center  
685 Union Lake Road**

So that we may plan adequate space for the Vision workshop, please RSVP to Stacey or Michele at Birchler Arroyo Associates (248) 423-1776 or Karen at [kfashoway@birchlerarroyo.com](mailto:kfashoway@birchlerarroyo.com) **NO LATER THAN MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2004** with the name(s) of the person(s) who will represent your group or organization.

Jean Shiloff  
White Lake Township  
Recreation Committee Chairperson



## VISION STATEMENT

As White Lake Township continues to develop, it is critical that the Township takes an active role to increase the parks and recreation opportunities for both existing and future residents. Of key importance for the Township is to expand existing parkland, develop additional active and passive recreation opportunities while preserving natural features, and develop a system of non-motorized pathways.

Providing a variety of facilities to accommodate the needs of residents with a wide-range of physical abilities and interests is important to the health and well-being of White Lake residents. The Township was successful with its recent development of Ferdinand C. Vetter Park and Judy Hawley Park. If possible, additional acreage should be secured adjacent to Hawley Park, in order to expand the facility. The proximity of Vetter Park and Hawley Park to the Township Hall and library makes it a popular destination. However, given that the park is not visible from the road, signage is necessary to inform the public that it exists. Residents of North Broadmoor would benefit from a pedestrian connection between the neighborhood and Vetter Park. White Lake should use Hawley and Vetter Parks as models on which to expand its recreational offerings within other areas of the Township. While there are several large-scale park facilities, development and population growth within the Township necessitates additional Township-level facilities. Another resident request is to develop a dog park. The development of a dog park would provide another recreation resource for people, while giving their dogs an alternative place to be walked. Acquiring additional land for more neighborhood-level facilities is crucial to providing facilities that are accessible to White Lake residents, wherever they may live.

Another resource that is in demand is gathering spaces for group meetings and activities. While the library can accommodate some groups, its facilities are frequently booked. The Township should pursue the adaptive reuse of existing buildings, to serve as a cost-effective method to expand the social and recreational opportunities available in White Lake.

The preservation of natural features and development of nature trails as another recreation resource is of primary importance to the Township residents. The unique topographic features, extensive waterways, and abundance of wetlands and woodlands makes White Lake a unique community. By preserving these resources for the future, and incorporating them into recreational developments, the Township can maintain the attractive natural features of White Lake for the benefit of current and future generations. One method of maintaining these natural areas, as well as secure additional parkland in general, is to obtain parkland as a condition of new development. In addition, White Lake currently owns property that may be suited to parkland, including a small parcel with frontage on Brendel Lake, a larger piece on the south side of M-59, east of Highland Recreation Area, and several well sites. The Township should consider how best to utilize these areas for its residents.

The development of a pathway system is crucial to permitting pedestrian movement within and between residential developments, in addition to providing a non-motorized way for children and adults alike to travel to the larger recreation areas, retail places, etc., without having to use a vehicle. The Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Regulations should ensure that new developments require sidewalks or pathways to be installed, depending upon the location of the site. Safe design and proper maintenance of pathways must be a critical component of the pathways plan, in order to ensure its long-term viability. The system must include such components as safe pedestrian crossings of M-59, a proper relationship between new pathways and existing development, and connections to adjacent communities. Given the narrow right-of-

way along M-59 and many of the other major roads, it will be necessary in some areas to install pathways within the lot area, because there is not sufficient space within the right-of-way to accommodate a safe pathway. An essential element of pathways along major roads is a sign system to inform users and motorists of the biking/pedestrian activity, crosswalks, and crossing lights.

The Township should establish a Parks and Recreation Department, in order ensure that facilities are maintained and programmed for the benefit of residents and visitors. The development of annual or periodic programs, such as a Music in the Park series, could attract a cross-section of the community, from young families and singles to seniors. Also, White Lake should consider utilizing other local organizations, such as the library, in order to promote parks activities or develop joint programs to attract a wider audience. In addition, White Lake may partner with the Water Board in order to provide appropriate recreational opportunities on land controlled by the Board. Another method to increase awareness of the Parks and Recreation Plan, and ensure that proper communication is provided among Township boards, would be the appointment of a Planning Commission liaison to the Parks and Recreation Committee. White Lake should increase the use of its "Four Seasons Playground" slogan, in order to promote the wide range of outdoor activities that are available within the Township.

In order to provide an extensive recreation network, it is necessary for White Lake to partner with adjacent communities to provide a variety of recreational opportunities. By working with adjacent communities, it will be more cost-effective for the Township to provide facilities and services for its residents, without unnecessary duplication. Other possible partnerships could involve working with the State of Michigan, Oakland County, and the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority to increase awareness of the White Lake facilities that are available to the public, and ensure the use of them is sustained.

It will be necessary for the Township to leverage its money as much as possible and seek alternative forms of funding, in order to be successful in expanding recreational opportunities in the Township. The Township should consider local funding mechanisms, such as adding a line item on the budget, passing a millage, or selling bonds, in order to secure funding. The use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) monies for recreation development should be pursued as well. Another source for park land or facilities development that must be more strongly pursued is contributions from developers. Both large-scale developers such as Meijer and Lowe's, as well as residential developers who may provide areas of private recreation within their developments, are sources for additional parkland or facilities. Lastly, private foundations and grant writers may serve as sources to discover other funding mechanisms available to White Lake.

4. As part of the Recreation Plan process, the Township is developing a multi-use pathway plan for White Lake. The pathways would provide a non-motorized transportation option for pedestrians, bicyclists, horseback-riders, etc. In order to assist the Township in determining which roads/utility corridors should take priority for pathway development, please rank them according to the priority they should be assigned. The highest-priority item should have a rank of 1, and the lowest priority should have a rank of 11.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
M-59 Pathway Redevelopment	4	3	1	1	2	0	1	0	1	0	2
Corridor connecting Highland & Pontiac State Recreation Areas	7	4	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Utility Corridor, west of Bogie Lake Road (Extends from M-59 south to Cooley Lake Road)	1	5	3	2	2	1	0	0	1	0	0
Bogie Lake Road	0	2	2	0	1	4	1	1	2	0	0
Teggerdine Road	0	1	0	0	2	0	3	2	1	0	2
Union Lake Road	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	3	2
Elizabeth Lake Road	0	1	1	2	0	1	2	0	1	3	1
Cedar Island Road (to connect Bogie Lake Road to Union Lake Road)	2	1	3	2	1	0	1	1	1	1	1
Pontiac Lake Road (to connect Teggerdine to M-59)	0	0	4	1	1	0	1	2	1	2	0
Porter-Grass Lake-McKeatchie (connect Twp Library & Bloomer Park)	1	2	1	2	1	0	0	2	0	0	2
Ormond Road, M-59 to Twp line.	2	0	0	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	0

Comments on #4:

- This is difficult to do as some pathways should connect to others as indicated by 1, 2, & 3.

5. What do you believe are the top two priorities the Parks & Recreation Committee should be considering?

- ☒ Establishing /developer requirements for park space.
- ☒ Senior services advocacy, given demo. Shift.
- ☒ Easy to use programs
- ☒ Money for use to develop these uses.
- ☒ Purchasing of land
- ☒ Developing a complete recreational facility (fields, pool).
- ☒ Develop of parks & recreation department in the Township facility.
- ☒ Land acquisition.
- ☒ Development of Park/Rec. Dept. @ Twp. Hall.
- ☒ Safety paths (multi-use) non-motor

- ☒ Community Center facility – land acquisition & planning
- ☒ We need to encourage conservatorships to put away land as state parks may not be around forever.
- ☒ Pathways
- ☒ Future development (subs) to insert open areas set aside for public pathways/trails.
- ☒ Community Growth
- ☒ Funding.
- ☒ Affordable Recreation Center
- ☒ Trails & Pathways
- ☒ Land Acquisition for Future parks.
- ☒ Preserving part of twp for nature walks and bike paths.
- ☒ Conserving natural wetlands.
- ☒ Pathways
- ☒ Family Parks
- ☒ Pathway planning & implementation (Twp wide & connected).
- ☒ Organized activities & improved parks.
- ☒ To keep the area as natural to the surrounding as possible
- ☒ What could be the most needed in White Lake.
- ☒ What about new land on M-59.
- ☒ Pathway Development
- ☒ Milage to support land acquisition, maintenance, development.

6. Please provide any additional comments or ideas that would be helpful to the Recreation Committee as the Recreation Plan/Pathways plan is developed.

- ❖ Pathways to allow M-59 corridor residents/Porter/etc. to walk to the library (Township Offices) – esp. those in lower income housing where families often don't have transportation.
- ❖ Coordination between elected officials (budget & activities) needs to be easily improved. We need to consider being able to sponsor a program activities regularly for all ages of residents.
- ❖ I would like to see a dog park. I would also like to see a trail system that I could drive or bike to easily.
- ❖ The Township Board needs to provide mechanism to properly fund the Rec Committee. We must have funds for maintenance & improvements. Recreation Committee member should be appointed to Planning Commission.
- ❖ Multiple accesses to State Parks.
- ❖ Consistent & dedicated funding source should be secured by Twp. Officials. Twp general fund dollars will not be a long-term and stable source.
- ❖ Create a dog park.

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF WHITE LAKE**  
***Portion of Unapproved Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting Pertaining to Public***  
***Hearing for the Recreation Plan***  
**March 15, 2005 – 7:00 p.m.**

Supervisor Kowall called the Regular Board of Trustees meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Clerk Burkard took the roll and Mrs. Spoor was absent.

ROLL CALL: Mike Kowall, Supervisor  
Carol J. Burkard, Clerk  
Beverly J. Spoor, Treasurer - **Absent**  
Forrest J. Brendel, Trustee  
Terry Lilley, Trustee  
Michael C. Powell, Trustee  
Andrea C. Voorheis, Trustee

Also Present: Greg Need, Township Attorney  
Ole Anderson, Township Engineer  
David Birchler, Township Consultant  
Karen Fashoway, Township Consultant  
Lynn Lindon, Recording Secretary

Visitors: 75+

 **PUBLIC HEARING**

**A. DRAFT RECREATION PLAN**

Mr. Birchler distributed a handout to the board members and noted that Ms. Fashoway has been must meet standards in order to get funding from the State. There is a 5-step process in developing a plan and they have completed 3 of those steps to date. They gathered information on the community and did an inventory of the parks. They then looked at standards and deficiencies. The pathway system was discussed on how to connect to other communities. They also did park observations, surveyed existing park users and held an "Issues and Solutions" workshop for people to discuss what they want to see. As a result, there were nine major concerns: (1) Pathways; (2) Land Acquisition; (3) Grants & Funding; (4) 4-Season Playground; (5) Parks & Rec Department; (6) Elected Parks & Rec Committee; (7) Community's Growth; (8) Judy Hawley Park and (9) Other State, County, Metro Facilities. Ms. Fashoway gave a brief overview of possible solutions to these issues.

Mr. Birchler indicated that the Board has recognized there could be 1,000 more new homes in the next year and available land for parks and recreation is shrinking. The township must look at appropriate places to acquire land for future parks. The proposed plan is aggressive and the pathways element is a major piece of this plan. He noted that the committee did an evaluation of the entire township for pathway potential.

Mr. Birchler thought it was important to point out why the township should have a recreation plan and the purpose beyond the need five years from now. The recreation planning process and the desire for communities to stay grant eligible requires playing

by the States rules. The township can get up to 75% of the cost of buying a piece of property. There is potentially 1.75 million in grant money and without this plan the township can't even submit a plan to the DNR. Mr. Birchler added that it is possible to apply for funds for a project that may not be listed in the plan, but is consistent with the goals and objectives of the plan. The plan never commits the community to spending any money. Only the approved application will require designation of funding.

**It was MOVED by Lilley, SUPPORTED by Burkard to open the public hearing at 8:16 p.m. The MOTION CARRIED with a voice vote. (6 yes votes)**

Randy Mayer asked how much money was budgeted for Parks and Rec and Supervisor Kowall indicated \$5,000.

Kathy Gordinear of the Dublin Senior Center stated that writing grants is a lot of work and asked who would write them. Supervisor Kowall indicated that the consultants are responsible for writing grants. Mr. Birchler added that they have done grant writing and have gotten grants secured for other cities and townships as well.

Clerk Burkard stated she wants some type of path addressed for handicappers and noted that playscapes are not handicapable. Ms. Fashoway indicated that barrier-free access is addressed in the plan.

Supervisor Kowall commended the Parks & Rec committee for their hard work. He noted that the township is lacking funds for maintenance and has lost the help from the prison camp. The township needs to look at other ways of preventative maintenance for the parks.

Thomas Johnson, 9136 Buckingham, asked about community service court sentences to maintain the parks but Supervisor Kowall indicated that someone has to supervise these people and the current maintenance person would require overtime. He is currently trying to work out service with the county.

Mr. Powell thanked the committee and added that the plan is extremely well done and informative.

**With no other comments, it was MOVED by Lilley, SUPPORTED by Burkard to close the public hearing at 8:25 p.m. The MOTION CARRIED with a voice vote. (6 yes votes)**

#### **RESOLUTIONS**

##### **A. RESOLUTION TO ADOPT RECREATION PLAN**

**It was MOVED by Lilley, SUPPORTED by Burkard to adopt the Recreation Plan as presented. The MOTION CARRIED with a voice vote. (6 yes votes)**

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE  
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF WHITE LAKE  
OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

**RESOLUTION TO ADOPT RECREATION PLAN:**

- WHEREAS, The White Lake Charter Township Parks and Recreation Committee was established by the Township Board to review the Township's recreation needs and develop a Recreation Plan to meet those needs, and
- WHEREAS, The Parks and Recreation Committee has held several meetings on the proposed Recreation Plan to obtain public comments and suggestions on the proposed improvements for the years 2005 through 2009, and
- WHEREAS, The Parks and Recreation Committee conducted a parks observation/ public survey in June 2004, and hosted a vision session on September 15, 2004 to solicit public input and suggestions regarding the Township's parks and recreation facilities and needs, and
- WHEREAS, The Parks and Recreation Committee has completed development of the draft Recreation Plan including a five (5) year plan for the improvement and continued development of recreation facilities for the benefit of Township residents, and
- WHEREAS, The Parks and Recreation Committee wishes to recommend that the Township Board approve the proposed Recreation Plan for the years 2005 through 2009,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

THAT THE WHITE LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE HEREBY ADOPTS THE PROPOSED RECREATION PLAN FOR THE YEARS 2005 THORUGH 2009 AND RECOMMENDS APPROVAL OF THE RECREATION PLAN BY THE TOWNSHIP BOARD.

Motion by Page supported by Kawalski to adopt the above resolution.

AYES: 6

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 2

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED ON 2.16.05.

  
Chairperson

**WHITE LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD  
OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

**RESOLUTION TO ADOPT RECREATION PLAN:**

- WHEREAS, The White Lake Township Parks and Recreation Committee was established by the White Lake Township Board to review the Township's recreation needs and develop a Recreation Plan to meet those needs, and
- WHEREAS, The Parks and Recreation Committee hosted an Issues and Solutions workshop to solicit public input regarding the Township's parks and recreation facilities and needs, and
- WHEREAS, The Parks and Recreation Committee has completed development of the Recreation Plan including a five (5) year plan for the improvement and continued development of recreation facilities for the benefit of Township residents, and adopted the plan by resolution on February 16, 2005, and
- WHEREAS, The Parks and Recreation Committee recommended that the Township Board approve the proposed Recreation Plan for the years 2005 through 2009, and
- WHEREAS, The Township Board held a public hearing on the proposed Recreation Plan to obtain public comments and suggestions on the proposed improvements for the years 2005 through 2009,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

THAT THE WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP BOARD HEREBY ADOPTS THE RECREATION PLAN FOR THE YEARS 2005 THROUGH 2009 AS PRESENTED AT A PUBLIC HEARING AND AS RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL BY THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE.

Motion by Lilley, supported by Burkhard to adopt the above resolution.

AYES: Kowall, Burkhard, Brendel, Lilley, Powell, Voorheis

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Spoor

**RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED ON 3.15.05.**

**Carol J. Burkhard**

---

Carol J. Burkhard, Clerk  
White Lake Township